

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Treasury

§ 251.11

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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 552(a), 19 U.S.C. 81c, 1202; 26 U.S.C. 5001, 5007, 5008, 5010, 5041, 5051, 5054, 5061, 5111, 5112, 5114, 5121, 5122, 5124, 5201, 5205, 5207, 5232, 5273, 5301, 5313, 5555, 6302, 7805.

SOURCE: 20 FR 3561, May 21, 1955; unless otherwise noted. Redesignated at 40 FR 16835, Apr. 15, 1975.

CROSS REFERENCE: For regulations with respect to distilled spirits, wines, and beer arriving in the United States from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, see part 250 of this subchapter.

Subpart A—Scope of Regulations

§ 251.1 Imported distilled spirits, wines, and beer.

This part, “Importation of Distilled Spirits, Wines, and Beer”, contains procedural and substantive requirements relative to the importation of distilled spirits, wines, and beer into the United States from foreign countries including special (occupational) and commodity taxes, permits, marking, branding, closing and labeling of containers and packages, and records and reports.

NOTE: Distilled spirits, wines, and beer arriving in the United States from Puerto Rico

and the Virgin Islands are governed by the provisions of part 250 of this chapter.

[T.D. ATF-206, 50 FR 23955, June 7, 1985]

§ 251.2 Forms prescribed.

(a) The Director is authorized to prescribe all forms required by this part, including reports, returns, and records. All of the information called for in each form shall be furnished as indicated by the headings on the form and the instructions on or pertaining to the form. In addition, information called for in each form shall be furnished as required by this part.

(b) Requests for forms should be mailed to the ATF Distribution Center, 7943 Angus Court, Springfield, Virginia 22153.

(5 U.S.C. 552(a) (80 Stat. 383, as amended))

[T.D. ATF-92, 46 FR 46921, Sept. 23, 1981, as amended by T.D. ATF-249, 52 FR 5963, Feb. 27, 1987; T.D. ATF-372, 61 FR 20725, May 8, 1996]

Subpart B—Definitions

§ 251.11 Meaning of terms.

When used in this part and in forms prescribed under this part, where not otherwise distinctly expressed or manifestly incompatible with the intent thereof, terms shall have the meaning ascribed in this section. Words in the plural form shall include the singular, and vice versa, and words importing the masculine gender shall include the feminine. The terms “includes” and “including” do not exclude things not enumerated which are in the same general class.

ATF Officer. An officer or employee of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) duly authorized to perform any function relating to the administration or enforcement of this part.

Beer. Beer, ale porter, stout, and other similar fermented beverages (including sake or similar products) of any name or description containing one-half of 1 percent or more of alcohol by volume, brewed or produced from malt, wholly or in part, or from any substitute therefor.

Bonded premises—distilled spirits plant. The premises of a distilled spirits

plant, or part thereof, on which distilled spirits operations defined in 26 U.S.C. 5002 are authorized to be conducted.

Bulk container. Any container having a capacity of more than 1 gallon.

Bulk distilled spirits. The term “bulk distilled spirits” means distilled spirits in a container having a capacity in excess of 1 gallon.

CFR. The Code of Federal Regulations.

Class 8 Customs bonded warehouse. A class 8 customs bonded warehouse established under the provisions of Customs Regulations (19 CFR, chapter I).

Customs officer. Any officer of the Customs Service or any commissioned, warrant, or petty officer of the Coast Guard, or any agent or other person authorized by law or designated by the Secretary of the Treasury to perform any duties of an officer of the Customs Service.

Director. The Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC.

Distilled spirits or spirits. That substance known as ethyl alcohol, ethanol, or spirits of wine, and all mixtures or dilutions thereof, from whatever source or by whatever process produced, including alcohol, whisky, brandy, gin, rum, and vodka, but not including wine as defined in this subpart.

Distilled spirits plant. An establishment qualified under the provisions of part 19 of this chapter for the production, storage, or processing of spirits, or for authorized combinations of such operations.

District director of customs. The district director of customs at a headquarters port of the district (except the district of New York, N.Y.); the area directors of customs in the district of New York, N.Y.; and the port director at a port not designated as a headquarters port.

Effective tax rate. The net tax rate after reduction for any credit allowable under 26 U.S.C. 5010 for wine and flavor content at which the tax imposed on distilled spirits by 26 U.S.C. 5001 is paid or determined.

Eligible flavor. A flavor which:

(1) Is of a type that is eligible for drawback of tax under 26 U.S.C. 5134,

(2) Was not manufactured on the premises of a distilled spirits plant, and

(3) Was not subjected to distillation on distilled spirits plant premises such that the flavor does not remain in the finished product.

Eligible wine. Wine on which tax would be imposed by paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of 26 U.S.C. 5041(b) but for its removal to distilled spirits plant premises and which has not been subject to distillation at a distilled spirits plant after receipt in bond.

Gallon or wine gallon. The liquid measure equivalent to the volume of 231 cubic inches.

Importer. Any person who imports distilled spirits, wines, or beer into the United States.

Kind. As applied to spirits, kind shall mean class and type as prescribed in 27 CFR part 5. As applied to wines, kind shall mean the classes and types of wines as prescribed in 27 CFR part 4.

Liquor bottle. A bottle made of glass or earthenware, or of other suitable material approved by the Food and Drug Administration, which has been designed or is intended for use as a container for distilled spirits for sale for beverage purposes and which has been determined by the Director to adequately protect the revenue.

Person. An individual, a trust, an estate, a partnership, an association, a company, or a corporation.

Proof. The ethyl alcohol content of a liquid at 60 degrees Fahrenheit, stated as twice the percent of ethyl alcohol by volume.

Proof gallon. A gallon of liquid at 60 degrees Fahrenheit which contains 50 percent by volume of ethyl alcohol having a specific gravity of 0.7939 at 60 degrees Fahrenheit referred to water at 60 degrees Fahrenheit as unity, or the alcoholic equivalent thereof.

Region. A Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Region.

Regional Director (compliance). The principal ATF regional official responsible for administering regulations in this part.

United States. “United States” includes only the States and the District of Columbia.

U.S.C. The United States Code.

Wine. (a) Still wine, including vermouth or other aperitif wine, artificial or imitation wines or compounds sold as still wines, champagne or sparkling wine, and artificially carbonated wine, and (b) flavored or sweetened fortified or unfortified wines, by whatever name sold or offered for sale, containing not over 24 percent alcohol by volume.

(68A Stat. 917, as amended (26 U.S.C. 7805); 49 Stat. 981, as amended (27 U.S.C. 205); 26 U.S.C. 7805 (68A Stat. 917, as amended), and in 27 U.S.C. 205 (49 Stat. 981, as amended))

[T.D. ATF-48, 43 FR 13552, Mar. 31, 1978, as amended by T.D. ATF-50, 43 FR 37180, Aug. 22, 1978; 44 FR 55853, Sept. 28, 1979; T.D. ATF-62, 44 FR 71718, Dec. 11, 1979; T.D. ATF-114, 47 FR 43950, Oct. 5, 1982; T.D. ATF-198, 50 FR 8555, Mar. 1, 1985; T.D. ATF-206, 50 FR 23955, June 7, 1985; T.D. ATF-251, 52 FR 19339, May 22, 1987; T.D. ATF-297, 55 FR 18069, Apr. 30, 1990; T.D. ATF-398, 63 FR 44784, Aug. 21, 1998]

Subpart C—Special (Occupational) Taxes

§ 251.30 Special (occupational) tax.

Importers engaged in the business of selling, or offering for sale, distilled spirits, wines or beer are subject to the provisions of part 194 of this chapter relating to special (occupational) taxes. Part 194 requires that the special tax return, Form 5630.5, with payment of the tax, shall be filed with ATF in accordance with the instruction on the form, before commencing business. Subsequently, Form 5630.5 with tax shall be filed each year on or before July 1, as long as the proprietor continues in business.

(Sec. 201, Pub. L. 85-859, 72 Stat. 1340 as amended, 1343 as amended, 1344 as amended (26 U.S.C. 5111, 5112, 5121, 5122))

[T.D. ATF-70, 45 FR 33981, May, 21, 1980, as amended by T.D. ATF-251, 52 FR 19339, May 22, 1987]

§ 251.31 Warehouse receipts covering distilled spirits.

Since the sale of warehouse receipts for distilled spirits is equivalent to the sale of distilled spirits, every person engaged in business as an importer of distilled spirits, who sells, or offers for sale, warehouse receipts for distilled spirits stored in customs bonded warehouses, or elsewhere, incurs liability to

special tax as a dealer in liquors at the place where the warehouse receipts are sold or offered for sale, and must file return and pay occupational tax as provided in § 251.30.

(68A Stat. 618, 620, 621; 26 U.S.C. 5111, 5112, 5121, 5122)

Subpart D—Tax On Imported Distilled Spirits, Wines, Beer, and Imported Perfumes Containing Distilled Spirits

DISTILLED SPIRITS AND PERFUMES

§ 251.40 Distilled spirits.

(a) A tax is imposed on all distilled spirits in customs bonded warehouses or imported into the United States at the rate prescribed by 26 U.S.C. 5001 on each proof gallon and a proportionate tax at a like rate on all fractional parts of each proof gallon. All products of distillation, by whatever name known, which contain distilled spirits, are considered to be distilled spirits and are taxed as such. The tax will be determined at the time of importation, or, if entered into bond, at the time of withdrawal therefrom.

(b) A credit against the tax imposed on distilled spirits by 26 U.S.C. 5001 is allowable under 26 U.S.C. 5010 on each proof gallon of alcohol derived from eligible wine or from eligible flavors which do not exceed 2½ percent of the finished product on a proof gallon basis. The credit is allowable at the time the tax is payable as if it constituted a reduction in the rate of tax.

(c) Where credit against the tax is desired, the person liable for the tax shall establish an effective tax rate in accordance with § 251.40a. The effective tax rate established will be applied to each entry.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1512-0352.)

(Sec. 201, Pub. L. 85-859, 72 Stat. 1314, as amended (26 U.S.C. 5001); Sec. 201, Pub. L. 85-859, 72 Stat. 1356, as amended (26 U.S.C. 5201); Sec. 6, Pub. L. 96-598, 94 Stat. 3488, as amended (26 U.S.C. 5010))

[T.D. ATF-297, 55 FR 18069, Apr. 30, 1990]